

Message Text

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AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10109

USDA PASS FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IN

SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST MONSOON

REFA: NEW DELHI 9564

1. THE PROGRESS OF THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON CONTINUES TO BE SLOW AND WEAK FOR THE SECOND WEEK IN SUCCESSION MAKING NO FURTHER ADVANCE DURING THE WEEK ENDING JULY 7. PERFORMANCE THUS FAR HAS BEEN BELOW AVERAGE, BOTH IN COVERAGE OF AREAS AND INTENSITY OF PRECIPITATION.

2. IN SOUTHERN PENINSULA, MONSOON WAS ACTIVE ONLY IN MAHARASHTRA (EXCLUDING CENTRAL MAHARASHTRA), ANDHRA PRADESH, AND TAMIL NADU AND BELOW NORMAL OVER REST OF THE REGION. IN NORTHEASTERN PARTS OF INDIA, MONSOON WAS ACTIVE IN ASSAM AND MEGHALAYA; NAGALAND, MANIPUR, MIZORAM, AND TRIPURA; AND NORTH BENGAL. RAINFALL OVER REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS DEFICIENT TO SCANTY RANGING FROM 25 PERCENT IN COASTAL KARNATAKA TO 99 PERCENT IN WEST RAJASTHAN (BELOW NORMAL).

3. CUMULATIVE RAINFALL FROM JUNE 1 TO JULY 7, 1976 WAS NORMAL

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OR ABOVE IN ASSAM AND ITS ADJOINING STATES, NORTH BENGAL, HARYANA,

PUNJAB, RAJASTHAN, WEST MADHYA PRADESH, GUJARAT, COASTAL AND CENTRAL MAHARASHTRA, SOUTHWEST ANDHRA PRADESH, TAMIL NADU, AND NORTH INTERIOR KARNATAKA. RAINFALL OVER BALANCE OF COUNTRY WAS BELOW NORMAL RANGING FROM 30 PERCENT IN NORTH BIHAR AND SOUTH INTERIOR KARNATAKA TO 73 PERCENT IN KERALA. THE ABOVE WEATHER ZONES, WHICH RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL ACCOUNT FOR APPROXIMATELY 43 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL PRODUCTION USING AS A BASE THE DISTRIBUTION OF KHARIF PRODUCTION DURING 1970/71.

4. PARTS OF ASSAM STATE IN THE NORTHEASTERN REGION CONTINUE TO REEL UNDER FLOOD WATERS INUNDATING SEVERAL AREAS. SOME LOSS OF LIFE AND DAMAGE TO JUTE, PADDY, AND TEA CROPS HAS BEEN REPORTED.

5. THE TARDY ARRIVAL AND BELOW AVERAGE PRECIPITATION OF THE MONSOON TO DATE HAS IN MANY AREAS DELAYED PLANTING OF KHARIF (FALL/WINTER HARVESTED) FOODGRAIN CROPS AND SLOWED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE CROPS ALREADY PLANTED. THE CONTINUED DRY SPELL IN LARGE AREAS, PARTICULARLY THE STATES OF ORISSA, BIHAR, UTTAR PRADESH, KERALA, EASTERN MADHYA PRADESH, PARTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH, MAHARASHTRA AND KARNATAKA, IS CREATING SOME ANXIETY AMONG FARMERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ABOUT PROSPECTS OF THE 1976-77 KHARIF FOODGRAIN AND COMMERCIAL CROPS. THIS HAS GENERATED NERVOUS MARKET TRADING AND AN UPSWING IN THE PRICES OF SEVERAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, PARTICULARLY VEGETABLE OILS DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS. HOWEVER, OBSERVERS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SCENE FEEL THAT IF RAINS FALL BY MID-JULY AND ARE SUSTAINED THROUGH THE SEASON, CROPS GENERALLY WOULD NOT BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. SAXBE

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